

39. Description of a new Lizard from the Canary Islands*.

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[Received May 14, 1914; Read May 19, 1914.]

LACERTA CÆSARIS.

Abstract P. Z. S. 1914, p. 41 (May 26th).

Physiognomy and general proportions of *Lacerta galloti*, but much smaller and, from a phyletic point of view, of a more primitive pattern of coloration.

Head rather large, difference in size according to sexes not so marked as in *L. galloti* and its larger allies. Length of head $\frac{1}{4}$ of length to vent in the male, very little less in the female. The cheeks not noticeably swollen in the male. Width of head $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length, depth $\frac{1}{2}$, width of pileus $\frac{1}{2}$ in both sexes. Snout as long as the postocular part of head (to posterior border of tympanum) in the female, slightly longer in the male.

Neck distinctly narrowed. *Body* slightly flattened.

Tail long, more than two-thirds total length.

Limbs elongate, the fore limb in both sexes reaching the nostril, the hind limb reaching the collar or not quite so far in the female, a little beyond in the male.

Rostral usually touching the nostril ‡, separated from the frontonasal.

Frontonasal as long as broad or slightly longer.

Frontal a little shorter than its distance from the end of the snout in the female, but slightly in the male; twice as long as broad (on its narrowest point) in the female, slightly longer in the male; not touching the first supraocular.

Supraoculars separated from superciliaries by a series of granules.

Parietals as long as, or slightly longer, rarely shorter § than the frontal in the male, usually a little longer in the female, strongly bent down on the temple, occupying the place usually held by the supratemporals ||.

Occipital at least as broad as the interparietal, usually considerably broader, and constantly broader than long; on an average larger in the male than in the female ¶.

A single *postnasal*. 5 *upper labials* anterior to the subocular**.

* [The complete account of the new species described in this communication appears here, but since the name and a preliminary diagnosis were published in the 'Abstract,' No. 134, 1914, the species is distinguished by being underlined.—

EDITOR.]

† Communicated by Dr. G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

‡ Exceptions rare: for instance in Nos. 3 and 14 of the annexed table.

§ For instance in No. 13.

|| The author does not wish to support the theory of a fusion of the said shields.

¶ As is generally the rule in the species of *Lacerta*.

** Two superposed anterior loreals on each side in No. 4, double anterior suboculars in No. 12.

1. ♂... (143)	Total length.	74	(89)	30	18.5	12	9	9	28	15	90	10-12	30	3.5 ; 5.5	1.75 ; 2	3	3 ; 2.25	40	7	29-30	—
2. ♀... (154)		77	(77)	28	18	12	8.5	8.75	27	41	96	10-12	31	3.5 ; 5.25	1.75 ; 2.25	2.5 ; 2	38	9	29-28	33	
3. ♂... (206)		72	(134)	28	18	12	9	9	26	42	102	12	30	3.5 ; 5.25	1.75 ; 1.75	2.75 ; 2	14	11	29	32	
4. ♀... (156)		72	(84)	27	17	11	8.5	8.5	25	40	100	10	30	3 ; 5	1.75 ; 1.75	2 ; 1.75	14	11	29-28	33	
5. ♂... (165)		72	(93)	29	18	12	8.5	8.5	27	43	105	12	30	3.25 ; 5.25	1.75 ; 1.75	3 ; 2.25	13	9	27-26	35	
6. ♀... (188)		70	(118)	26	16	10.5	8	8	24	38	99	10	30	3 ; 4.75	1.5 ; 1.5*	1.75 ; 1.75	33	7	25-24	33	
7. ♂... (164)		68	(96)	27	17.5	11.5	8	8	26	42	98	10-12	30	3.25 ; 5.25	1.5 ; 1.75	2.75 ; 2	39	7	31-30	30	
8. ♀... (206)		66	(140)	26	16.5	10.5	8	8	23	37	91	12	30	3 ; 5	1.75 ; 2†	2.75 ; 1.75	36	8	26	33	
9. ♀... 218		66	152	25	16	10	7.5	7.5	23	36	95	12	30	3 ; 4.5	1.5 ; 1.75	2.5 ; 1.75	38	10	25	31	
10. ♀... 204		59	145	24	14	9	6	6.5	22	36	95	10	31	2.75 ; 4.25	1.5 ; 1.75	2 ; 1.5	43	11	28-26	34	
11. ♂... (110)		56	(54)	24	14.5	9.5	7	7	22	35	110	10+2	29	2.75 ; 4.5	1.5 ; 1.75	1.75 ; 1.25	42	9	28	36	
12. ♀... 180		54	126	22	13.5	8.5	6.5	6.5	20	33	94	10+2	30	2.5 ; 4.25	1.5 ; 1.75	2 ; 1.5	41	10	27	32	
13. ♂... (160)		54	(106)	23	14.5	9.5	7	7	21	34	98	12	29	2.75 ; 5	1.5 ; 2	2.5 ; 1.5	43	8	28-27	33	
14. ♀... 176		53	123	22	13.5	8.5	6.5	6.5	20	33	91	12	31	2.25 ; 4.25	1.5 ; 1.75	2 ; 1.25	39	9	28-29	33	

* Scutum intercalare 0.75 ; 0.5.

† Scutum intercalare 0.5 ; 0.25.

Temporal scutellation granular, often finely, with more or less developed masseteric and tympanic shields; a series of small supratemporals.

Scales covering the lower eyelid extremely small and granular, those in the centre scarcely, if at all, differentiated.

Dorsal scales very small, rhombic-granular, more or less distinctly keeled, 90-110 across the middle of the body; 3 or 4 series corresponding to one ventral plate.

Upper caudal scales much smaller than the dorsals.

Gular scales 33-44 on a line between the collar and the third pair of chin-shields; gular fold distinct, collar not serrated, composed of 7-11 plates.

Ventrals in 10 or 12 longitudinal and 29-31 transverse series.

Anal comparatively small.

Femoral pores 24-31.

Subdigital lamellæ 30-36 under the fourth toe.

Coloration (from life). Pileus of a dark or light bronze-brown, more or less profusely speckled with black.

Superciliary streak, if distinct, on each side running entirely upon the parietal and continued to the base of the tail, or beyond; this streak of a bright yellow in life.

A light streak along the spine, well defined from the bronze colour of the dorsal region.

A short subocular streak, of a duller yellow than the superciliary, and often interrupted, extends a little way beyond the tympanum in the middle of the dark brown temporal band, which is edged below by a continuous dull yellow streak, extending from below the tympanum to the base of the hind limb, reappearing again on the side of the tail.

The dark bands in some specimens (young males) with small light, dark-edged spots without any tendency to form transverse series. Larger bright spots on the limbs.

Lower surface of head blackish grey, or even black in full-grown specimens; the dark shade sometimes extending to the breast. Belly dirty white, or pale greyish, without any spots; a few roundish, bluish-white spots sometimes present on the margin.

Frequently a small sky-blue spot on the dark temporal band above the insertion of the fore limb, another of the same colour on the upper arm. In a few adult females the whole lower surfaces of the thighs of the same bright blue.

In some fully adult males the markings become very indistinct or may nearly entirely vanish, such specimens being blackish brown.

Iris silvery.

Habitat: Hierro, Canary Islands; a large number of specimens were collected by Dr. Caesar Boettger at Las Lapas, in the "Golfo" of Hierro, and presented to me in August, 1913.

The types, which I received alive, are preserved in my private collection.

This species belongs to the same group as the well known

L. galloti D. B., from which it differs to the same extent as *L. simonyi* Steind., from the "Roques del Zalmore," near Hierro, but in an opposite direction.

It differs from *L. galloti* in its smaller size, in its broader occipital shield, in the downward extension of the parietal shields, in fewer longitudinal rows of ventral shields (10-12, instead of 12-14), in the higher number of dorsal scales (90-110, instead of 80-98), in the more primitive pattern of coloration, as well as in the feeble degree of secondary sexual differentiation.

In my opinion it represents the most primitive type of the *L. galloti* group.